

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lever apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

a lever;

a cover part disposed on a base end portion of the lever, which includes a spherical-shaped outer surface and a thickness-reducing recessed portion formed on an inner surface side thereof;

a mounting part fixedly projecting from the inner surface of the cover part;

a pair of fitting recessed portions formed in opposed side portions of the mounting part

outside of the cover part; and

a lever support portion including a pair of shaft portions with which the pair of fitting recessed portions are respectively fitted such that the lever is pivotably connected to the lever support portion.

Claim 2 (Original): The lever apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a pair of openings are respectively formed in peripheries of the associated shaft portions.

Claim 3 (Original): The lever apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an inserting opening to which the mounting part is inserted is formed in the lever support portion, and the pair of shaft portions project toward the inserting opening.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The lever apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the lever support portion is configured such that when the mounting part is inserted into the lever support portion, the pair of shaft portions abut to the mounting part and wherein the shaft portions are able to be elastically deformed.